

September 19, 2020

Dear PreK 4s families,

Thank you for a great start to the school year. The children are spending time getting to know one another and adjusting to the preschool classroom. September can be a challenging month as there are so many changes from the lazy days of summer, but the month also brings structure and routine which benefits little ones. As the preschool days keep marching on, the children will become much more acquainted with their new surroundings, friends and teachers. There will be many opportunities and activities to help the children feel more comfortable.

**Morning Arrival:**

Thank you for helping your child check in each day by having their temperature taken by Nurse Amy or one of our staff members. The children are doing an amazing job finding their cubbies, taking off coats and backpacks, as well as entering the classroom. I am so pleased. To ease your minds, I am in the lobby with Nurse Amy to assist the children. I try to look in backpacks for the orange school folders each Friday, too.

Ms. Katie is in the classroom assisting the children with the washing hands task. Then the children eagerly get busy at one of our tables with an activity. It is so fun to see the children already get used to our new routine. They are doing a marvelous job.

**End of the Day Dismissal:**

Thank you for your understanding as both Ms. Katie and I are getting to know our PreK families and especially the Authorization Pick-up Helpers. If it is a nice day, the children will be dismissed from the park. Feel free to come a bit closer to the playground gate to help us recognize faces. I must admit it can be a bit tougher to see faces with masks on—so thank you for your patience as we dismiss the children to the proper person. If we are unable to use the playground due to the weather, we will plan to dismiss from the main Preschool doors. Thank you.

**Communication via email:**

Please keep your email, phone number and address current with us if it changes at any time during the school year. Newsletters and calendars will be sent electronically. If you wish to add more email addresses—just let me know.

**Magnificent Me:**

Our theme this past week was Magnificent Me. The children listened to the story [I Like Myself](#) by Karen Beaumont, as well as other wonderful books relating to the theme. We discussed similarities and differences we may have from one another, learned a few chants and created special projects. A special “ME” paper doll creation is on display on a classroom bulletin board. The children did a magical name activity by painting over their name with water colors. The results were exciting as each child’s name appeared as they painted. In addition, the children measured and counted the length of their names. Our name creation is on a different classroom bulletin board. Hopefully you have heard about our fun together from your little one.

### **Preschool Friends Week:**

In celebration of our friendship theme next week-- the children will be participating in activities that help foster new friendships with classmates. The children will listen to a few stories, play a fun "phone" game, learn how to be a good friend and more. On Monday, the children will be enjoying two exciting activities which supports getting to know one another:

#### Puzzle Matching:

The children will play a puzzle matching game that encouraged them to find another classmate's puzzle piece which matches their own puzzle piece. Once the matching puzzle piece is found, the two classmates have to connect the puzzle pieces to be sure they fit together. Then the two pals make a friendship bracelet at a table together.

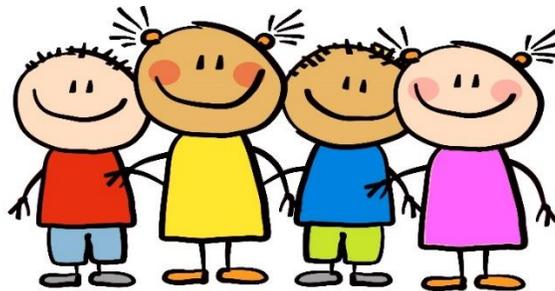
#### Friendship Bracelet:

The friendship bracelet is an outward sign of how to be a good friend to others. Each colored bead represents a different trait to act towards a friend.

- Yellow: represents listening.
- Red: represents being special.
- White: represents sharing.
- Purple: represents kindness—one of our favorite words and actions in the classroom.
- Blue: represents peace. We feel peaceful when we practice all of these special words--listening to others, being special, sharing, and kindness.

Be sure to ask your child all about the puzzle matching game and friendship bracelet. I hope your child enjoys the bracelet that was made alongside his/her puzzle partner.

Friends at school  
Are big and small.  
Friends at school  
Are best of all!!



### **Reminder for Snack Days:**

Please send 2/4 food groups with your child's snack. Individual sized packages are necessary this year due to our current restrictions. If you would like another copy of the Snack Time procedures and food recommendations—please let me know. Be sure to send any plastic utensils if needed for the snack. There is no need to send napkins or a beverage. Thank you so much.

### Letter of the Week:

I will be introducing the letter of the week curriculum starting this coming week. Our letter study begins with the letter F which ties in perfectly with our theme—Preschool Friends. Our focus will concentrate on the sound, as well as the formation and name of each letter.

A typical week may look like this:

\*\*The letter of the week is introduced to the children. We learn the sound and name of the letter at morning meeting/circle time. During the week, the children will work in small groups with me to practice writing the specific letter.

\*\*To help support learning the letters, sounds and formation of the letters, the Zoo-phonics program is used with the children. Feel free to look up: Zoo-phonics online to learn all the animals. I have already been teaching the children the animal names and sounds—so once a letter is introduced, the animal will be somewhat familiar to the class.

\*\*The children will create a zoo animal with a big letter each week. For example, Letter F will be our **Francy Fish** creation. The children will review the animal, sound and formation of each letter all week.

\*\*An oral language activity is part of our letter animal creations. It is wonderful to listen to the creative answers the children have to the activity.

\*\*During the week, the children will each have an opportunity to pick out one item from our letter box to show the class. The letter box will be filled with objects/photos that start with the letter of the week, as well as items that do not start with the letter of the week. It will be fun to figure out if the objects go along with the letter/sound of the week.

\*\*Look for the zoo-phonics project to come home in your child's school folder.

\*\*I will have the letter of the week and zoo animal on the monthly calendar.

\*\* Be sure to support your child as we journey through the alphabet together. 😊



**Our Alphabet Creations:**

The children make strong connections with the sounds/letters and zoo-phonics animals during the school year. To support your child's learning, it is encouraged to find a way to collect or save the animal letter creations that come home each week.

**Ideas to show your child the value of the letter projects:**

- \*display the letters by hang them up—playroom, closet door, basement wall, etc.
- \*or try placing each zoo-phonics animal project in a clear plastic protector (pages need to be trimmed) and then put each page in a three-ring binder.
- \*collect them with paper fasteners or on a metal ring.

It doesn't matter how you collect the letters. My main goal is to teach your children to love to learn, make connections with the sounds/letters and to be proud of his/her accomplishments. By discussing and collecting the alphabet projects at home, it shows your child that learning these concepts are valued by both home and school. It truly is a wonderful way to watch your child make connections with the letters.

**Lifetouch Photo Day:**

As I mentioned in a previous email, there has been a calendar change to Lifetouch Photo Day. Please mark your calendars for Monday, October 5 for our photo day. Watch for more information coming out through the main school newsletter soon. There is no retake day scheduled at this time due to our current restrictions. \*\*IF you do not yet receive the weekly newsletter from the main school office, please let me know. \*\*

**Communication via email:**

Please keep your email, phone number and address current with us if it changes at any time during the school year. My newsletters will be sent home through email. Thank you.

**School Website:**

St. Joseph's School website is another place to look for PreK-8<sup>th</sup> grade information. Our school website is very user friendly. The calendar and newsletters will be added to the school website, too.

**Thank you** for all you are doing to start the year off in a positive direction with your child. Your support means so very much. Your children are just precious and have captured our hearts.

**Contact me** if you have any questions.

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